

# ***NEWS***

## ***OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION***

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: November 7, 2006  
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## **Major Grade Crossing Safety Improvements in Springfield *Partnership with City & Railroad Makes It Possible***

**(Columbus)** – Critical cooperation between the City of Springfield, the Norfolk Southern Railroad (NS) and the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) means a massive grade crossing safety project can get underway through the downtown Springfield area.

A total of 18 grade crossings through Springfield will get major safety upgrades at a time when freight rail traffic is growing. Five more grade crossings will be permanently closed in as part of the agreement.

The project is part of an overall safety upgrade to the entire rail corridor between Columbus and Cincinnati, known as the “CJ Line”, and is the result of a cost-sharing agreement between the NS and ORDC.

“This project is a great example of the good things that happen when the state, local government and the railroad work together toward a common goal”, says ORDC Acting Executive Director Matt Dietrich. “It will not only greatly improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and train crews, but can improve the quality of life by reducing the noise from train horns, especially in the downtown area. We also commend the City of Springfield for agreeing to close five crossings, which will eliminate a hazard and further quiet nearby neighborhoods”

The improvements and crossing closures may also assist the City of Springfield's efforts to seek a "quiet zone" designation from the federal Railroad Administration. The following crossings will get "4-quad" gates, which are an approved upgrade by the Federal Railroad Administration in creating a "quiet zone":

- **Wittenberg Avenue**
- **South Limestone Street**
- **Linden Avenue**
- **South Lowry Avenue**

The installation "4-quad" gates simply means that these four crossings will have four sets of lights and gates (one for each quadrant of the grade crossing), which will completely block motor vehicle traffic when activated by an approaching train.

Fourteen more crossings will get state-of-the-art lights and gates with constant warning time, which allows activation of the lights and gate based upon the speed of the on-coming train. Those crossings are located at:

- **West Main Street (2 crossings)**
- **Snyder Street**
- **North Bechtle Avenue**
- **South Western Avenue**
- **South Shaffer Street**
- **West High Street**
- **South Yellow Springs Street**
- **South Center Street**
- **Fountain Avenue**
- **York Street**
- **East Street**
- **Burt Street**
- **Burnett Road**

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) has authorized the Norfolk Southern Railroad to proceed with the engineering work on this major project, which will be financed with federal funds.

**(The Ohio Rail Development Commission is an independent agency operating within the Ohio Department of Transportation. ORDC is responsible for economic development through the improvement and expansion of passenger and freight rail service, railroad grade crossing safety and rail travel & tourism issues. For more information about what ORDC does for Ohio, visit our website at <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ohiorail/>)**

